

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to urge you to support robust Fiscal Year 2018 funding for our public lands law enforcement divisions. Our public lands law enforcement officers are uniquely qualified to address the distinct threats facing our natural, cultural and historic resources.

As you prepare the fiscal year 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide public lands law enforcement divisions with adequate funding, at least equal to currently enacted levels, in order to comprehensively protect public and visitor safety and the irreplaceable system of national treasures under their care.

Our public lands law enforcement divisions have suffered from significant underfunding in recent years, and in many cases a single law enforcement officer is tasked with covering over 1 million acres of public land. This has resulted in a shifting of responsibilities and the taxing of resources to the surrounding communities. We are concerned this could result in irreparable resource damage, including forest fires, looting and vandalism of archaeological sites, and a lack of law enforcement staff to ensure visitor safety.

A small investment in our public lands law enforcement divisions would protect the quality of life, visitor safety, and the irreplaceable natural, cultural and historic resources that protected public lands offer. We look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the coming months to ensure adequate funding in Fiscal Year 2018 for our public lands law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,




Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

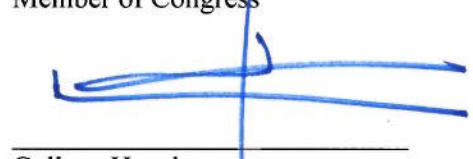
  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress


  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

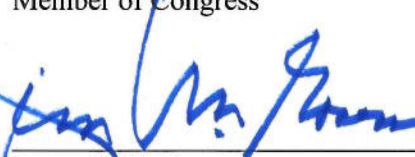
  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

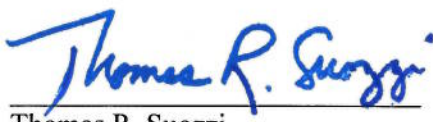
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

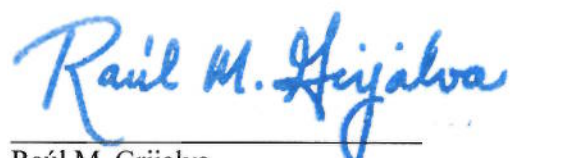
  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member House Committee on Natural  
Resources